

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, May 21

The Center of Clayton – Meeting Room A

The following members were present:

Alex Berger
Mimi Deem
Judy Goodman

Jill Indovino
Omri Praiss
Rich Yawitz

Excused/Absent

Dick Hyde
Lori Elliot

Also Present:

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the April 23 meeting were approved pending a few corrections.

Director's Report

The Shaw Park Aquatic Center will open on May 26. The locker room floors have been refinished and they look 99% better. The dive tower repairs have been completed. The bottoms of all 3 pools have been painted. We also have new loungers and chairs.

This year at the concession stand we have managers as opposed to assistant managers operating the stand. All concession stand attendants have been hired. We eliminated items from the menu that took too long to prepare in order to help up speed up transactions. We will have hand wipes at the tables at the concession stand to assist with the cleanliness and friendliness program.

A change was made to the smoking area. The Commission members discussed the possibility of moving the smoking area to the north end of the pool or eliminating the smoking area all together. Ms. DeForrest noted that there is an ordinance that allows smoking at outdoor facilities and venues. There was a motion which suggested that the BOA look at assisting with moving the smoking area or eliminating it. Mr. Berger agreed to assist with the process.

The Ice Rink consultants completed their preliminary report. The market study numbers put together a usage report based on the numbers and concluded that 2 1/2% of populations use ice rinks and in Clayton that is equivalent to 321 people. This information will be helpful to us when we are developing a market plan to get more people to utilize the ice rink. It was determined that we do not need an indoor rink. The Ice Rink Task Force is putting together ideas about some type of covered rink. The task force has also discussed making the ice rink a destination site where people can go to enjoy dinner with the family and take part in various types of entertainment. The Commission is very interested in exploring this idea more and is would like to know when these types of plans are in the works.

The upcoming events are Musical Nights in Oak Knoll Park which begins on Sunday, May 27. Fanfare will be the first band to perform. The Jazz Festival and Taste of Clayton will both take place the weekend of June 1.

Project updates include:

- Field Consultant - Maintenance and Usage Plan in place.
- Mulch pile which is also known as the environmental recovery area. We will be taking a bio swale approach when completing this project because it is a better way to treat the area. The preliminary design and landscaping plan will begin this July. The process will treat the odor and will assist with the way the water runs off in that area
- Park signage is slowing getting put up. We will be talking about the monument sign at Shaw Park at the next meeting
- The fence at DeMun Park is the final project that will be completed this year.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan final draft has been finished. It will go to the BOA at the June 12 meeting for approval. We are working on the FY08 budget and there are no fee increases

associated with usage this year. The Alice Aycock Sculpture will be put in, in July. The artist will be onsite on May 23 and will be discussing landscaping around the art piece with Ms. Renard, Superintendent of Parks.

Hanley House Recommendations

Ms. Goodman reported that the Hanley House Council met tonight to re-work the recommendation including the statement about funding which was important to the Commission. This was done in an effort to get the endorsement from the Commission before going to the BOA. The Commission reviewed the new recommendation and had a lengthy discussion and deliberation about the new recommendation. It was noted that most of the Hanley House budget has not been spent because we only contracted for a historic structure report. On June 15 the Hanley House Council will review the preliminary findings of the historic structures report.

Judy Goodman indicated that there are grants available and there are individuals waiting in the wings including Hanley descendants who are willing to give money. We do not know what for or how much but we have been contacted by them. There are other people in the community who may donate funds as well. Mr. Yawitz asked whether an ancillary building would be part of the proposed project and what would be the cost of such ancillary structure. Both Ms. DeForrest and Ms. Goodman confirmed that such estimated costs could range between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000.

The amount of money spent over the past several years was also discussed. The financial information is as follows: the average amount spent on the Hanley House over the last 10 years was about \$30,000. For the first 4 years that Ms. DeForrest was here it was \$10,000 a year and the costs were covered by the City of Clayton. The highest amount spent on the house will be \$75,000 which most of it will be spent this year. Mr. Yawitz stated that he would feel uncomfortable this time endorsing \$75,000 to be spent on the Hanley House project without having any plan in place and without knowing whether or not private donations and corporate gifts would become available.

Mr. Yawitz also commented on the fact that the Master Plan Citizen Survey completed in the Summer of 2006 showed that the Hanley House was important to very few people. In addition, attendance records in connection with the Hanley House show that very few people visit the residence. Ms. Goodman responded by stating that she quoted that survey to someone and he said do not tell me about the survey. The funder said he was not interested in that because the house has not been marketed and packaged or integrated into the school system. Ms. Goodman reiterated that she would like the Commission to endorse the revised recommendation. Ms. DeForrest stated the only reason she would disagree with changing the wording is because we are where we started. The general charge was given to the Hanley House Council to look for ways to explore the effectiveness of it. The Hanley House looked at a variety of options and this is what they selected as what they think are the options and they might not do all of them. Her sense of what they want to do is to restore and maintain it as a historic house museum. They are not looking to make other choices. They put in the words "consider and explore" because if we cannot fund it, it is not going to happen. We do not want to do it if we cannot do it the best way we can. We want to charge a fee and make money through usage. It could be a great joint opportunity with the school district. We are moving forward with the school district to see what their interests are.

After the lengthy discussion and deliberation about revising the recommendation the Commission proposed certain revisions. Mr. Praiss made the motion to support the Hanley House Council recommendation with the change in the first sentence to state the City of Clayton support the vision of the Hanley House Council and the very last sentence where it says the Council it says "accomplish its vision" be changed to "accomplish the vision". Mr. Yawitz opposed having the language pertaining to "development of an ancillary building" stay in the wording of the motion. His concern is citizens would misinterpret the motion to mean that the Commission is necessarily endorsing the "ancillary building" at this time without the funding contingency and that based upon information available it is premature to make such a motion. Ms. Dubin stated that she feels we appreciate the historic accuracy and it will help the kids so we need to move forward. She also announced the need to vote on the motion presented by Mr. Praiss. Six Commission members voted their support of the recommendations; with Rich Yawitz voting against support of the recommendation of the Hanley House Council.

Master Plan Overview

The working committee met and finalized the project priorities. They established two lists; one with specific projects and the other is long term projects. It was a very good thing to do and helped us to prioritize. There were overriding themes like the walking trails. We really looked at the things we want and we looked at what the community told us they really want in their needs assessment survey and at what we want to make as the priority. There are some things in the Master Plan that are still going to take place but we consider them just do it items. Things we are going to do because they are the necessary thing to do but do not need to be on a priority list. There were things on the list that if they are not on the priority list may not get looked at. In the end we had a lot of discussion about walking trails, corporate tent, inclusion playground, and accessibility issues. We came up with a target of projects and there are a lot of details about these projects in the Master Plan. We will take the projects and turn them into a timeline. There is a list of projects and actions items that will take place along the way. For example, the mulch pile esthetics and environmental concerns, when is it going to be done and how much is it going to cost and then show it to the Commission over the next few months and get it into place. It is going to be a timeline that can get us through the next 5 to 10 years. Some of them lend themselves more to grants than other projects. Neighborhood park improvements are a whole variety of small projects. When we do our timeline it will have 12 things underneath it. Another good piece that came out of it was the changing of park acquisition to green space expansion. These things will be incorporated and then we will get a final draft out. The next step will be to start implementing. On June 12 the consultants will do a presentation at the BOA. Everyone on the Commission will get a copy of the report.

Old Business/New Business

Ms. DeForrest noted that there are still some openings for new members on the Commission. Mr. Berger is working on this and will have a report at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Denise Ucinski